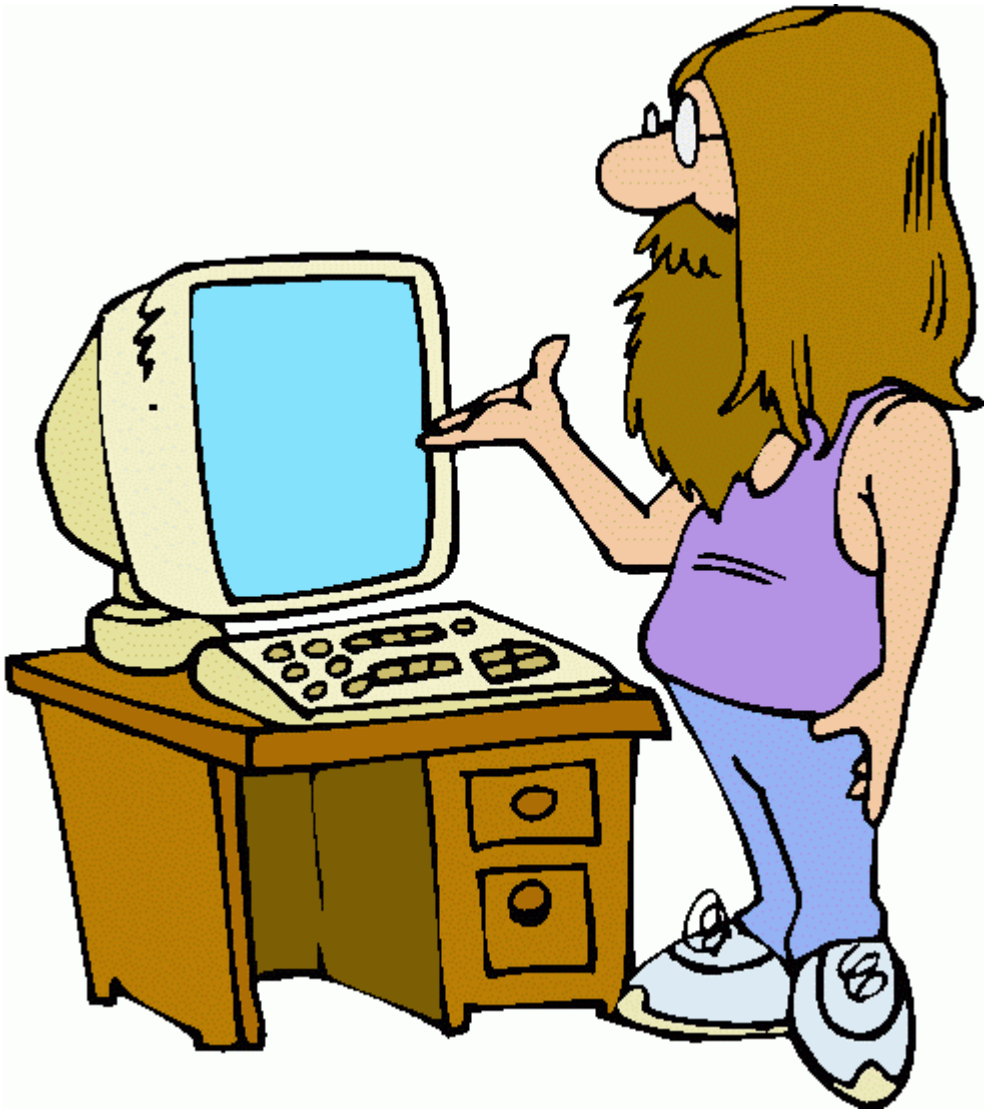
E-Waste



Hey Man, simply because you're outdated doesn't mean you're unwanted. I'd never discard you.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Perhaps you have heard that E-waste is the fastest growing portion of our solid waste stream but many of you are left wondering:

WHAT IS E-WASTE?

Electronic waste (E-Waste): discarded computers and other consumer electronics including items like laptops, personal computers, televisions and cell phones.

Can you imagine how high the mountain of old computers would be if every person that has unwanted electronics at home decided to throw them away? We'd never reach the summit!

THE PROBLEM of E-WASTE?

Massive piles of electronics present other problems for all life on earth because there are toxics in all computers and the piles keep growing.

Toxics inside your electronics:
Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Nickel, Zinc,
Brominated Flame Retardants

Improperly handling discarded electronics, such as dismantling (taking apart) without proper controls, or simply tossing the materials in the trash can expose hazardous chemical compounds known to negatively effect human and environmental health. When released into the environment, the toxic components pose a threat today *and* tomorrow *as well as* for the future generations that follow.

The fact is that only a very small amount of discarded computers are being recycled. **The truth is that this needs to change!**

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS to E-WASTE*:

Be Aware! Know and understand the issues. In so doing, you can make informed decisions and take positive action today; the **CHOICE** is yours**!!**

$$USE PURCHASING POWER$$

Prior to purchasing your new computer, be mindful of the following:

- Visit **EPEAT** http://www.epeat.net/

EPEAT is a system to help purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, notebooks and monitors based on their environmental attributes. EPEAT also provides a clear and consistent set of performance criteria for the design of products, and provides an opportunity for manufacturers to secure market recognition for efforts to reduce the environmental impact of its products.

- Know you can upgrade your older system and this will help it run faster

- Consider if the manufacturer offers a take-back or recycling program that is either nearby or convenient and easy for you to participate

- Does the manufacturer use recycled/recyclable materials?

*Useful definitions:

Orphan Waste: electronic waste manufactured by or bearing the brand name of a company which is no longer in business as of the effective date of the requirements of this act.

Recycling: reprocessing of the waste materials for the original purpose or for other purposes, but excluding energy recovery or energy generation by means of combusting electronic waste with or without other waste.
Re-use,means any operation by which electronic waste or components thereof are used for the same purpose for which they were conceived, including the continued use of the equipment or components thereof which are returned to collection points, recyclers, or producers.

Product Stewardship: a system that addresses the environmental and economic impacts of a product through its life cycle.

Life Cycle Analysis: A life cycle inventory is a process of quantifying energy and raw material requirements, atmospheric emissions, waterborne emissions, solid wastes, and other releases for the entire life cycle of a product, process, or activity (EPA 1993). The Life Cycle Impact Assessment (LCIA) phase of an LCA is the evaluation of potential human health and environmental impacts of the environmental resources and releases identified during the life cycle inventory (LCI). Impact assessment should address ecological and human health effects; it can also address resource depletion. A life cycle impact assessment attempts to establish a linkage between the product or process and its potential environmental impacts.

Resources:

Earth 911
http://earth911.com/
Earth 911 is a guide to local resources including recycling centers, how to recycle, pollution prevention and how help protect the environment.

Responsible Recycling (R2) Practices
http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/materials/ecycling/r2practices.htm
R2 is a set of guidelines for accredited certification programs to assess electronics recyclers' environmental, worker health and safety, and security practices. Since January 2006, EPA has facilitated a multi-stakeholder group to develop this document.

EPEAT ®
http://www.epeat.net/
EPEAT® is the definitive global registry for greener electronics, covering the most products from the broadest range of manufacturers.
EPEAT is a procurement tool designed to help purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare and select electronic products (currently desktop and notebook/laptop computers and monitors) based on their environmental attributes.
EPEAT's name is derived from the acronym for the "Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool"

The Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse (ERCC)
http://www.ecycleclearinghouse.org/
The ERCC is a forum for coordination and information exchange among the state/local agencies that are implementing electronics recycling laws and all i
mpacted stakeholders.

Consumer Electronics Recycling Facilities in NJ
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/lrm/uwaste/ucomplist.htm
These facilities are approved to demanufacture consumer electronics

NJDEP's Product Stewardship webpage
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/recycling/prd_stewards.htm
Product stewardship is the term used to describe a system that addresses the environmental and economic impacts of a product through its life cycle. This environmentally friendly and cost efficient approach begins within the product development and design stage. High quality product performance is key as the product stewardship approach continues through the manufacturing process. Once manufactured, and ready for shipment, appropriate, sustainable packaging is used. As product stewardship strategies are implemented; continued monitoring and analysis ensure the

sound distribution, sale, use and proper end of life management of the product. Responsibility for end-of-life management shifts from the public sector alone, to a system where that responsibility is at least partly shared by the private sector. The goal is to encourage environmentally friendly design and recycling, and to reduce the amount and toxicity of waste entering our solid waste stream.

Contact the Solid and Hazardous Waste Program
609-984-3438
ecycle@dep.state.nj.us